Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIVN, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE SHARE IN FINANCING COMPANY
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (FMO)

- 1. EARLY THIS MONTH FINANCE MINISTER DUISENBERG AND DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER PRONK JOINTLY SUBMITTED A DRAFT BILL TO PARLIAMENT PROVIDING FOR INCREASED GOVERNMENT SHARE IN FMO AUTHORIZED CAPITAL FROM 50 PERCENT TO 51 PERCENT (AT EXPENSE OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY SHARE WHICH DROPPED TO 49 PERCENT), A CHANGE OF FMO'S SET-UP AND STRUCTURE AND A SIGNIFICANT EXTENSION OF THE COMPANY'S TASKS.
- 2. THE DRAFT BILL RESULTS FROM GOVERNMENT'S DISCONTENT WITH FMO ACTIVITIES WHICH NO LONGER TAKE SUFFICIENT ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPMENT AID POLICY PURSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND FACT THAT FINANCING OF FMO TAKES PLACE ENTIRELY THROUGH GOVERNMENT FINANCING AND STATE GUARANTEED LOANS.
- 3. CHANGED FMO OBJECTIVES WILL FOCUS ON CONTRIBUTION TO EXPANSION OF BUSINESS LIFE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTENTIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND GON AID POLICY AND AIMED AT LDC'S GREATEST POSSIBLE SELF-RELIANCE.

- 4. FORMER FMO CONDITIONS LIMITING SUPPORT TO PROJECTS RESPRESENTING SUBSTANTIAL DUTCH INTERESTS WILL BE DROPPED, OPENING POSSIBILITIES FOR FINANCING OF FULLY LOCAL PROJECTS OR JOINT VENTURES WITH OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES. FMO WILL FURTHERMORE SUPPORT, WHERE POSSIBLE, ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE JUSTIFIED INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR, PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING POLICY AND SUPPORT PROJECTS IN COUNTRIES SUPPLYING FOREIGN WORKERS TO EUROPE. NEW AGREEMENTS ALSO PROVIDE FOR FMO FINANCING OF NON-PROFIT PROJECTS, E.G. SERVICE SECTORS, AND FOR SUBSIDY ELEMENT IN RELENDING OF FUNDS RAISED ON DUTCH CAPITAL MARKET.
- 5. COMMENT: ONE STEP LEFT. THE GOVERNMENT IS BRING-ING FMO'S FORMERLY BUSINESS-ORIENTED OPERATIONS MORE INTO LINE WITH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER PRONK'S MORE SOCIALIST IDEALS.

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